

#4

Lee Wiesner

040406

RESOLUTION**The Problem:**

Rusty crayfish have destroyed most of the aquatic vegetation in Middle Eau Claire Lake and are quickly doing the same on the other Eau Claire Lakes.

Large smallmouth bass are efficient predators of the aggressive rusty crayfish. Relative abundance for smallmouth bass, on Middle Eau Claire Lake, decreased from 3.4 fish/hour of electro fishing in 1998 to 1.8 fish/hour in 2004, both considered low.

Growth for smallmouth was above or equal to Northern region averages for all ages, leaving great potential for large bass over 18 inches.

Whereas, preventing the spread of exotics such as the rusty crayfish is a number one priority of the DNR.

Whereas, large smallmouth bass, are efficient predators and a natural control on rusty crayfish.

Whereas, the current regulation of a daily bag limit of 5 and a minimum size limit of 14 inches does little to protect abundance and numbers of large bass.

Whereas, there is unanimous support, from the board of directors of the Property Owner's Association, Inc., Barnes/Eau Claire Lakes Area, for this resolution.

Be it resolved, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Bayfield County on April 10th, 2006, recommends that the Department of Natural Resources take action to increase the number and size of the bass in the Eau Claire Lakes by changing the daily bag limit in the Eau Claire Lakes from 5 to 1 and increasing the minimum size limit from 14 inches to 18 inches.

Name: LeRoy Wiesner, President Property Owner's Assoc. Inc., Barnes/ Eau Claire Lakes Area

Address: 49525 East Shore Road, Barnes, WI 54873

County: Bayfield

Telephone: 715-795-3156

Signature: LeRoy Wiesner

For Office Use Only:

County BAYFIELD

Passed or Failed

County Resolution Number 4

County Vote: (by show of hands or written ballot where appropriate)

YES 41 NO 9